

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously presented) Method for the production of a reinforced hollow section with a continuous periphery, comprising the steps of:

forming an opening in said periphery,

inserting a reinforcing plate into the opening, such that it at least projects into the hollow section; and

joining the reinforcing plate to the hollow section in the region of an edge of the opening.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein beads are stamped into the reinforcing plate before insertion into the opening.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the dimensions of the reinforcing plate are designed in such a way that, when the reinforcing plate is inserted into the opening, it comes to rest against an opposite inner side of the hollow section, and, in addition to being joined to the edge of the opening, the reinforcing plate is also joined to said inner side.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the reinforcing plate is designed as a U- or V- section, and a projection is stamped into the bottom of the section, said projection being the only part to make contact with the inner side of the hollow section when ~~an section~~ a section is inserted into the opening, and the contact on the inside is made by projection welding.

5. (Currently amended) Method for the production of reinforced hollow sections with a continuous periphery, comprising the steps of:

forming an opening in said periphery,

inserting a reinforcing plate into the opening, such that it at least projects into the hollow section; and

joining the reinforcing plate to the hollow section in the region of an edge of the opening,

wherein the dimensions of the reinforcing plate are designed in such a way that, when the reinforcing plate is inserted into the opening, it comes to rest against an opposite inner side of the hollow section, and, in addition to being joined to the edge of the opening, the reinforcing plate is also joined to said inner side,

wherein the reinforcing plate is designed as a U- or V- section, and a projection is stamped into the bottom of the section, said projection being the only part to make contact with the inner side of the hollow section when ~~an section~~ a section is inserted into the opening, and the contact on the inside is made by projection welding,

wherein the section is inserted by means of a punch surrounded by the sides of the section, the punch simultaneously forming a welding electrode for the projection welding.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the reinforcing plate is joined to the inner side of the hollow section in the form of a U- or V- section by ~~Tox® clinching~~ TOX clinching.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the hollow section is pierced at a point where the reinforcing plate rests against an inner

side of the hollow section, and the plate is joined to the hollow section through said point by plug welding.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the hollow section is slotted at two diametrically opposite points and the reinforcing plate is inserted through the slotted openings and then joined.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the reinforcing plate is inserted into the opening in the hollow section with at least one of its end edges flush and is seam-welded to the opening at an edge of the opening.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein a welding flange is bent out at one end of the reinforcing plate on at least one side, said welding flange being laid against an outer side of the hollow section so as to overlap the edge of the opening, and the reinforcing plate is welded to the hollow section by means of the welding flange by beam welding or arc welding thus forming a fillet weld.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the hollow section is converted into a final form by hydroforming before the formation of a peripheral opening.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the opening is formed by piercing assisted by hydroforming.